

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A wide area load sharing control system comprising:

a module determining a distribution ratio at which an input traffic to an ingress edge ~~nodes-node~~ is distributed to each of a plurality of paths set up between said ingress edge ~~nodes-node~~ and an egress edge ~~nodes-node~~ that correspond to ~~within~~ a traffic engineering section ~~within~~ in a network; and

a module indicating which unit, a sharing control unit corresponding to said ingress edge ~~nodes-node~~ or other concentration control unit, executes a process of determining the distribution ratio at which the input traffic to said ingress edge ~~nodes-node~~ is distributed to each of the plurality of paths.

2. (Original) A wide area load sharing control system according to claim 1, wherein said indicating module indicates which unit, said sharing control unit or said concentration control unit, takes charge of the determining process in accordance with load states of said sharing control unit and of said concentration control unit.

3. (Currently Amended) A wide area load sharing control system according to claim 1, wherein said concentration control unit is a network control device concentratedly controlling a plurality of nodes including said ingress edge ~~nodes-node~~ and said egress edge ~~nodes-node~~ existing in the traffic engineering section ~~within~~ of the network.

4. (Original) A wide area load sharing control system according to claim 3, wherein said indicating module is provided in a state monitoring device outside said network control device.

5. (Original) A wide area load sharing control system according to claim 1, wherein the network is an MPLS-based label switching network.

6. (Currently Amended) A wide area load sharing control system according to claim 1, wherein when said sharing control unit corresponding to said ingress edge ~~nodes~~node gathers statistic information showing a load state in the network, said sharing control unit gathers directly the statistic information from said nodes capable of using a notification message based on a specified protocol, and gathers, through said concentration control unit, the statistic information from said nodes incapable of using the notification message based on the specified protocol.

7. (Currently Amended) A wide area load sharing control system comprising:

a statistic information gathering module obtaining from respective nodes, as statistic information, a traffic state of links connected to said respective nodes in a network;

a route determining module determining, based on the obtained statistic information, at least one route for extending a plurality of paths between an ingress edge ~~nodes~~node and an egress edge ~~nodes~~node that correspond to ~~within~~ a traffic engineering section in the network; and

a load sharing determining module determining, based on the obtained statistic information, a distribution ratio at which a traffic should be distributed to respective paths on the determined route,

wherein active modules among said statistic information gathering module, said route determining module and said load sharing determining module are switched over to between said

ingress edge nodes ~~node~~ and said network control device concentratedly controlling said respective nodes, mutually.

8. (Currently Amended) A wide area load sharing control system according to claim 7, wherein said ingress edge node includes an allocating module allocating packets arrived at, to the paths on said route on the basis of the distribution ratio, indicated by said load sharing determining module, at which the traffic should be distributed to the paths on the route.

9. (Currently Amended) A wide area load sharing control system according to claim 7, further comprising a state monitoring device including:

a module gathering and judging the load states of said ingress edge nodes ~~node~~ and said network control device; and

an indicating module switching over active modules among said statistic information gathering module, said route determining module and said load sharing determining module to between said ingress edge nodes ~~node~~ and said network control device in accordance with the load states, mutually.

10. (Currently Amended) A wide area load sharing control system according to claim 7, wherein when said ingress edge nodes ~~gather node~~ gathers the statistic information showing a load state ~~within in~~ the network, said ingress edge nodes ~~gather node~~ gathers directly the statistic information from said nodes capable of using a notification message based on a specified protocol, and gather, through said network control device, the statistic information from said nodes incapable of using the notification message based on the specified protocol.

11. (Original) A wide area load sharing control system according to claim 7, wherein if said ingress edge node does not include said load sharing determining module, said load sharing determining module of said network control device is made to operate.

12. (Original) A wide area load sharing control system according to claim 7, wherein the network is an MPLS-based label switching network.

13. (Currently Amended) A wide area load sharing control method comprising:

determining a distribution ratio at which an input traffic to an ingress edge ~~nodes-node~~ is distributed to each of a plurality of paths set up between said ingress edge ~~nodes-node~~ and an egress edge ~~nodes-node~~ that correspond to ~~within~~ a traffic engineering section ~~within-in~~ a network; and

indicating which unit, a sharing control unit corresponding to said ingress edge ~~nodes-node~~ or other concentration control unit, executes a process of determining the distribution ratio at which the input traffic to said ingress edge ~~nodes-node~~ is distributed to each of the plurality of paths.

14. (Currently Amended) A wide area load sharing control method comprising:

obtaining from respective nodes, as statistic information, a traffic state of links connected to said respective nodes in a network;

determining, based on the obtained statistic information, at least one route for extending a plurality of paths between an ingress edge ~~nodes-node~~ and an egress edge ~~nodes-node~~ that

correspond to ~~within~~ a traffic engineering section in the network;

determining, based on the obtained statistic information, a distribution ratio at which a traffic should be distributed to respective paths on the determined route; and

switching over processing modules of said respective steps to between said ingress edge ~~nodes~~ node and control device concentratedly controlling said respective nodes, mutually.

15. (Currently Amended) A wide area load sharing control method according to claim 14, further comprising:

gathering and judging ~~the~~ load states of said ingress edge ~~nodes~~ node and said control device; and

giving an indication of switching over the processing modules to between said ingress edge ~~nodes~~ node and said control device mutually in accordance with the load states.